

FILED JUL 30 2020

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FYI:

*This letter  
was also emailed  
to  
Zoning@brookingscountysd.  
gov*

July 27, 2020

Brookings County Development Department  
520 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Brookings, SD 57006

RE: Proposed Cement Plant on Northeast Corner of Elkton/Sinai Exit off I-29

To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently the co-owner of the property directly south (across the road) from the current gravel pit and proposed cement plant, as well as land within a one-mile radius. I did not receive a notice of the proposed cement plant but was informed of the proposal by my sister-in-law, Pamela Telkamp.

**I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO A CEMENT PLANT ANYWHERE NEAR OUR PROPERTY FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:**

**HEALTH RISK/DAMAGE:**

Allowing a cement plant will expose all current and future tenants of our property (which include children) to the pollutants that cement plants are known to release, namely ammonia, benzene, certain glycol ethers, chromium, diethanolamine, dioxin and dioxin-like compounds, ethylene glycol, lead, manganese, mercury, sulfuric acid and zinc compounds. These pollutants are known carcinogens and also affect the air we breathe. Studies have shown that people living in municipalities in close proximity to cement plant emissions have a greater risk of respiratory diseases like tuberculosis, cardio-vascular diseases and asthma - especially children.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE:**

Cement plants are known to emit fine dust. Anyone living in close proximity will continually fight the fine dust that will infiltrate all cracks and crevices of their homes and buildings. If you are a landlord, you wish to rent to clean tenants. Clean tenants will not wish to stay in a property where they have to continually fight the dust caused by the cement plant.

**CROP/PLANT DAMAGE:**

Studies have also shown direct damage to plants/crops exposed to the pollutants associated with cement plants. Quoting from Scientific Research OJE Vol.6 No.7 June 2016:

In a major research on the effect of pollutant substances on the vegetation performed in areas around the cement industry in most parts of the world, clearly, the destruction of plant life by the rising material entry has been proved. The emissions from cement factories toward the nature via weather, water and soil that are included as the feeder sources of plant and their concentration beside the plant disturbs their metabolic activities in providing the vital needs. Environmental fluctuations, including temperature, pH, soil moisture and erosion as a result of around pollutants will be created. That along with it, supply of energy resources to the different components of the soil will be placed under this metamorphosis, and the more specialized the vital organs, such as the contents of the plant's chlorophyll, fitomas, protein and

starch will show a serious reduction [1] . These dust mites in addition to the various poisonous heavy metals concentration to the plant components make changes in the plant's soil nutrition that their most important items are soil pH due to the arrival of alkaline compounds and the increase of absorption capacity for soil [1] . Mercury and Cadmium are regarded as a heavy poisonous metal and important environmental pollution factor, which are the major source of pollution and produce the most dangerous pollutants by the growth of industry & cement factories. Whenever the density of pollutants exceeds a certain limit, in addition to the human and animals' health, it can be toxic for plants too. This toxicity is associated with the plant growth reduction and then the yield of plant will be reduced and in more extreme circumstances leads to death .

All farm land near the cement plant would be adversely affected.

#### **FINANCIAL DAMAGE:**

Our current tenant has sheep. The pollutants from a cement plant will adversely affect any livestock in the area. This can have a financially damaging affect not only on the owners of the livestock, but on those who receive income by renting farm property for the purpose of raising livestock, which is what we currently do.

We will not only lose our current tenants, who have children and sheep, but future, prospective tenants will be reluctant to rent our property due to the health risks associated with living near a cement plant.

A cement plant DIRECTLY ACROSS THE ROAD from my property will severely damage our property value. Cement plants are unsightly, dirty and noisy. They have heavy equipment coming and going. People looking to buy property in the country do so specifically for the "peace and quiet" of country life. Our property's "peace and quiet" will be destroyed and we would have to take a serious loss if we wished to sell.

In researching cement plants and the effect they have on people and the environment, I found a frightening quote:

"I'm from Vietnam. In my country there is a town in Hai Duong province in which half of its villagers died of cancer. This town has changed its name to "Tu Liet", meaning town-of-all-dead." (Quang Hongdang) To what did they attribute the death of half of the town? It had a big cement plant. Although Vietnam and the United States are vastly different in many ways, the potential dangers of cement plants remain the same.

In conclusion, I am extremely opposed to a cement plant being allowed to be constructed directly across the road from our property. It will cause health risks to humans, animals and crops. It will cause financial damage due to loss of tenants and prospective resale of the property. It will adversely affect the "peace and quiet" that is due to anyone wishing to live away from the city.

I implore you to put yourself in my shoes and ask yourself: "Would I want a cement plant across the street from my property?" I have no doubt you would answer "Absolutely Not" and for this reason I ask you to deny this proposal and all future proposals for such a plant.

Sincerely,

  
Lisa Telkamp-Castro